Middlebury

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Friends of International Students (FIS) Host Program Newsletter

Fall 2018 - A Note from ISSS; Important Dates; Upcoming Events; FIS Story Corner

A Note from ISSS

Hello from ISSS! The fall term is in full swing and the ISSS team has been busy helping our new international students settle into life at Middlebury. Many wonderful families in Middlebury and other surrounding communities eagerly awaited their arrival to welcome them into their hearts and homes.

On Saturday, October 6, ISSS held its annual matching event for the Friends of International Students (FIS) Host Program in McCardell Bicentennial Hall. The event kicked off our 18th year of the FIS program and the end of an involved matching process that began last spring. Once again, host families and students enjoyed local cider and donuts while sharing laughs and stories with one another.

We hope these new friendships will blossom into life-long relationships. For the first time, we have a host who is a current College employee and an international alumnus who had a host family during his time at Middlebury. How wonderful to see our program come full circle! We hope all of our students and host families create lasting memories in the day and months ahead.

February Student Hosts

We are looking for hosts for our February 2019 students as well as first year students who decide to join the program. If you would be interested in hosting one of these students, please contact the ISSS Office at **isss@middlebury.edu (subject line: FIS Host Program)** or at **(802) 443-5858**.

Important Dates

Thanksgiving Break –Thanksgiving recess begins on Tuesday, November 20, at 4:15 p.m. and runs through Sunday, November 25. Some students will leave campus. Yet, due to the brevity of the break, many students choose to stay on campus during this time. If they choose to remain here, they must register through Self-Service Banner (our student information system) to have access to their residence hall. Although they can stay in their rooms, Dining Services closes for daily meals so this is a great time for you to connect with your student. The last meal served in the dining halls will be breakfast on Wednesday, November 21, in Proctor Dining. The first meal after the break will be dinner on Sunday, November 25, in Ross and Proctor Dining Halls. Then, Atwater Dining Hall will re-open for breakfast and classes will resume on Monday, November 26.

For those staying on campus:

- Dining Services will prepare a Thanksgiving Meal on Thursday, November 22, in Atwater Dining Hall from 12-2 p.m. This meal is **free** for students who are registered to stay on campus as well as faculty and staff who are working that day.
- For other College guests, faculty and staff the cost is $5.00 per person.
- **All attendees** must obtain a ticket by **Wednesday, November 21**.
- For tickets, please visit the Box Office in McCullough Student Center in person or at: **http://boxoffice.middlebury.edu/.**

Final Exams – The final exam period begins on Tuesday, December 11, and ends on Sunday, December 16. Students have varying exam schedules, including take-home exams and term papers depending on their courses. Exams may be scheduled during the day or evening. The exam period is always a hectic and stressful time so you may want to ask your student about his or her schedule. A care package, a message of encouragement, a coffee or tea break with you or even a visit to campus with your pet is much appreciated and can lift your student's spirits!

Winter Break – The winter break begins on Monday, December 17, and runs through Sunday, January 6. Most students leave campus for the 3-week vacation. The College officially closes for the break, with almost all offices being closed during that time. Students who do not have an alternative option may request permission from their Commons Dean to stay on campus for **all or part of the break**. The application is available at the Residential Life website at: **http://www.middlebury.edu/student-life/community-living/residential-life/use-of-residential-spaces/Recess**. **Students must submit their request by 3 p.m. on Tuesday, November 13.** Only students who are approved are allowed to remain on campus. Some first-year students may be worried about what they will do during the break. It may be worth having a conversation with them about their plans to help brainstorm ideas and/or to encourage them to request permission to stay. **Students can always adjust their request if they end up being able to travel off campus**. Dining services will be closed after breakfast in Ross Dining on Monday, December 17, and will re-open for brunch in Proctor Dining on Sunday, January 6.

Students staying on campus during break will have access to kitchens, but must provide their own food. The winter break is a quiet and sometimes lonely time for students who remain on campus so this is a great time to invite your student to share some holiday meals or offer to take them grocery shopping with you.

Break Travel – Many students will travel to and from the airport during the Winter Break. Providing transportation for your student is not expected, so please do not feel obligated to do so. The Student Government Association (SGA) is providing discounted bus services to and from the airport in Burlington ($15 each way) and to some of the major metropolitan areas around the November and December breaks. Students can purchase tickets through the College Box Office in person or at: **http://boxoffice.middlebury.edu/**. You may also direct your student to the following link for alternate transportation options: **http://www.middlebury.edu/sustainability/transportation**.
If you happen to be going to Burlington during the break times, you may want to bring your student along for the ride so they have an opportunity to do some shopping or sightseeing of their own.

Winter Term/January Term–Residence Halls open at 9 a.m. on Saturday, January 5. Winter Term classes run from Monday, January 7 until Friday, February 1. Students take one course during the winter term, so they may have more time available for activities with their hosts. If your schedule allows, it's a great time to connect with your student for fun in the snow, or for those who prefer to stay warm indoors, a movie or a trip to one of Vermont's many cultural destinations.

Upcoming Events

Thursday Night at the Museum

Thursdays, 6-9 p.m., Mahaney Center for the Arts, Museum of Art
This year, in addition to its normal hours, the College museum will be open most Thursday evenings for a variety of events from gallery talks to musical performances. Free refreshments will be available. Please check the website for details each week. *Free and open to the public*.
http://museum.middlebury.edu/news/nights-at-the-museum

ISO Cultural Show

Friday, November 30, McCullough Wilson Hall
The International Students' Organization (ISO) Cultural Show is one of the most anticipated shows of the year, featuring singing, dancing, readings and more. There will be a family-friendly showcase from 5:30-6:30 p.m., and a complete show from 8:00-10:30 p.m. on the stage of McCullough Wilson Hall. Tickets go on sale Monday, November 12, in person at the Box Office in McCullough Student Center, on their website at: http://boxoffice.middlebury.edu/ or by phone at (802) 443-6433.

Lessons & Carols for Advent and Christmas

Sunday, December 9, 4-5:30 p.m., Mead Chapel
An annual program that features music of the season sung by the Middlebury College choir, readings by students, faculty, and staff and the joyous sound of the chapel carillon. Donations are collected for local charities. *Free and open to the public*.
http://www.middlebury.edu/events/calendar_of_events

Find other exhibitions, performances and events at the College and in our local area by clicking on the following links:

- **The College Calendar**: http://www.middlebury.edu/events/calendar_of_events
- **Middlebury College Museum of Art**: http://museum.middlebury.edu/
- **Addison County Chamber of Commerce:** https://www.addisoncounty.com
- **Burlington happenings**: http://www.sevendaysvt.com/

FIS Story Corner

The FIS Story Corner is a chance to share the adventures you have with your students in words and/or pictures and articles that would be of interest to the FIS Community. Please send your submissions to us at: **isss@middlebury.edu** so we can proudly share them here!

Flor Fernandez Montes ’21 had a blast on her birthday playing laser tag with two of her visiting friends and the Masons, her host family.

Danila Herrero ’18 celebrated Commencement with his family and his FIS hosts, Nicole Librandi and Bill Brown.

Ammar Almahdy ’20 shared some sweets from his home country of Egypt with his hosts, the Hamilton family, when they gathered for dinner.

Annie Tong ’19 (left) surprised her host, Sas Carey, with a visit this past year after returning from her study abroad program.

Armaan Sarkar ’12 (left) spent time with his former host, Amy Holbrook, when he returned to Middlebury for a wedding.

And here are more pictures from our October 6 Matching Event at Bicentennial Hall. Enjoy!

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Best wishes to all of you for a peaceful and happy holiday season

ISSS Staff

Kathy Foley	Associate Dean and Director of ISSS
Kas Singh	International Student and Scholar Advisor
Loren Scott	International Services Specialist
Carolyn Dahm	Administrative Coordinator